

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A connector for connecting the end portion of a pipe, a pipeline, a pipe string or coiled tubing, wherein the connector is formed or provided with at least one connecting device for equipment/tools, the said connector comprising parts that can be screwed together and have aligned bores for the accommodation of said pipe end portion, which is to be secured in the connector in the screwed-together condition of the parts, said connector further comprising a radially inner transversally shrinkable adapter sleeve, which is to bear, in a connected position, at its inner circumferential surface in a clamping manner against the outer jacket surface of the pipe end portion, characterized in that the adapter sleeve exhibits an external, conically extending threaded jacket surface, which cooperates with a surrounding outer adapter and connector sleeve with an internal, conically extending threaded circumferential surface, said outer adapter and connector sleeve being formed to cooperate with a threaded jacket portion of a socket-like connecting element formed on an end piece of the connecting device.

2. (Currently Amended) The connector of Claim 1, wherein the outer adapter and connector sleeve has an axial length that is at least twice an axial length of the inner adapter sleeve, whose length essentially corresponds to the depth of entering/screwing of the socket-like connecting element into the outer adapter and connector sleeve, characterized in that the inner sleeve and the socket-like connecting element of the end piece[[,]] both have substantially straight cylindrical bores, whereas the outer adapter and connector sleeve has a substantially straight cylindrical outer jacket, wherein tapers in wall thicknesses of the inner sleeve, the outer adapter and connector sleeve and the socket-like connecting element provide all the conical surfaces such and mating conical surfaces such that when the conical surfaces connect a total wall thickness is essentially uniform.

3. (Previously Presented) The connector of Claim 1, wherein at the end located the farthest from said end piece with the socket-like connecting element, the outer adapter and connector sleeve is formed with an inward annular flange defining a

sleeve bore section of a diameter generally corresponding to the outer diameter of the pipe.

4. (Previously Presented) A method establishing the connection and securing of a pipe end portion to a connector that comprises an elongate adapter sleeve, an inner shrinkable adapter sleeve, and an end piece that includes a socket-like connecting element, wherein the elongate adapter sleeve comprises an inner surface extending longitudinally conical so as to define a sleeve bore and wherein the sleeve bore is provided with threads, wherein the inner shrinkable adapter sleeve comprises a threaded jacket surface of an externally conical extent adapted to be received by the threaded sleeve bore and wherein the inner surface of the inner shrinkable adapter sleeve is dimensioned to fit over the end portion of the pipe, wherein the end piece comprises an externally threaded conically extending socket-like element adapted to be received by the threaded sleeve bore, wherein the end piece further comprises an annular stop surface dimensioned to engage the larger diameter bore end of the elongate adapter sleeve, the method comprising:

positioning the elongate adapter sleeve over the end portion of the pipe in a longitudinal manner;

positioning the inner shrinkable adapter sleeve over the end portion of the pipe;

engaging the threaded jacket surface of the inner shrinkable adapter sleeve with the threaded sleeve bore wherein resulting screwing action compresses the inner adapter sleeve gradually during the relative displacement of their cooperating conical surfaces in the longitudinal direction of the connector until a free internally threaded bore wall portion of the elongate adapter sleeve projects axially beyond the nearest end of the shrunk inner sleeve; and

engaging the conically extending socket-like connecting element of the end piece into the free internally threaded bore wall portion of the elongate adapter sleeve until the free end of the elongate adapter sleeve abuts the annular stop surface.

5. (Previously Presented) The connector of Claim 1, wherein the end piece is adapted to receive downhole equipment at the end substantially opposite from the socket-like connecting element.

6. (Previously Presented) The connector of Claim 1, wherein the external threads of the inner adapter sleeve is left-handed.

7. (Previously Presented) The connector of Claim 6, wherein the internal surface of the inner adapter sleeve comprises threads that bite into the surface of the pipe to resist displacement of the inner adapter sleeve relative to the pipe.

8. (Previously Presented) The connector of Claim 7, wherein the threads of the internal surface of the inner adapter sleeve is right-handed.

9. (Previously Presented) The connector of Claim 6, wherein the external threads of the inner adapter sleeve transfers external torque on the connector so as to further tighten around the pipe so as to resist circumferential displacement of the inner adapter sleeve relative to the pipe.

10. (Previously Presented) An assembly for connecting to an end of a tubular, comprising:

an inner sleeve having a tapered threaded outer surface;

a coupling member having a tapered threaded inner surface, wherein the inner surface of the coupling member cooperatively engages the outer surface of the inner sleeve; and

a connecting member having a tapered threaded end portion for cooperatively engaging the inner surface of the coupling member and a connector portion for coupling to a downhole tool.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for securing a tubular end portion to a connector, comprising:

providing the connector having an inner sleeve, a coupling member, and a connecting member;

positioning the coupling member over an end portion of the tubular in a longitudinal manner;

positioning the inner sleeve over the end portion of the tubular;

engaging a tapered external threaded surface of the inner sleeve with a tapered internal threaded bore of the coupling member, wherein the engaging compresses the inner sleeve and longitudinally displaces the inner sleeve relative to the coupling member ~~until a free end of the tapered internal threaded bore of the coupling member projects axially beyond the inner sleeve; and~~

engaging the connecting member into the ~~free internally~~ tapered internal threaded bore of the coupling member ~~until the free end of the coupling member abuts an annular stop surface of the connecting member.~~

12. (New) The assembly of claim 10, wherein the connector portion is substantially opposite the tapered threaded end portion of the connecting member.

13. (New) The assembly of claim 10, wherein the tapered threaded outer surface of the inner sleeve is left-handed.

14. (New) The assembly of claim 13, wherein the tapered threaded outer surface of the inner sleeve transfers external torque on the assembly so as to further tighten around the tubular so as to resist circumferential displacement of the inner sleeve relative to the tubular.

15. (New) The assembly of claim 10, wherein the internal surface of the inner sleeve comprises formations that bite into the surface of the tubular to resist displacement of the inner sleeve relative to the tubular.

16. (New) The assembly of claim 15, wherein the formations are threads on the internal surface of the inner sleeve.

17. (New) The assembly of claim 16, wherein the threads on the internal surface of the inner sleeve are right-handed and the tapered threaded outer surface of the inner sleeve is left-handed.

18. (New) The assembly of claim 10, wherein the inner sleeve and at least the tapered threaded end portion of the connecting member have a substantially straight

cylindrical bore and the assembly has a substantially straight cylindrical outer surface.

19. (New) The assembly of claim 10, wherein the coupling member is formed with an inward annular flange defining a coupling bore with a diameter generally corresponding to the outside diameter of the tubular.

20. (New) The assembly of claim 19, further comprising a first seal disposed in the coupling bore and a second seal disposed along the inside surface of the connecting member.